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Communication for GP’s January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Activities around the planning and delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations have been moving forward at speed over the past few weeks. I am writing to further update you on the IT and data management developments that will impact on you directly, particularly if your practice is involved in vaccination delivery.

# Overview of COVID-19 vaccine recording management and information flows

Vaccinations are being delivered by a variety of NHS staff and at varying sites across Scotland, as the programme rolls out this will extend to mass vaccination sites to enable us to vaccinate as much of the population as quickly as possible. To support this it is essential that we have in place, real time, efficient and accurate recording and sharing of vaccination data. The management of data is important for direct patient care, monitoring of the new vaccines and for the on-going surveillance of the effectiveness of the new COVID-19 vaccines.

## Data Management

The National Clinical Data Store (NCDS) has been established as the central repository for information relating to COVID-19 vaccination events in Scotland. This will manage the information that comes from all vaccination locations (both General Practice and NHS Board led), to enable this information to be made available in appropriate ways. This will include feeding patient vaccination information back into GP practice systems. Information on vaccination events recorded in the Vaccination Management Tool (see 1.2 below) will flow from the point of vaccination to the NCDS and then to GP records. In addition, if vaccinations are entered into the GPIT system in your practice, they will be transferred to the NCDS via a data extraction process developed by Albasoft with approved information sharing data governance in place for the COVID-19 Pandemic. This will also enable those using the VMT to see information about previous doses of the COVID-19 vaccine which may have been delivered elsewhere.

You may already be familiar with Albasoft through the Scottish Therapeutic Utility (STU) and Shielding searches that they provide. This transfer of information will ensure a complete record is held by the NCDS and also ensure the patient specific information is available where needed.

Your local Health Board Vaccination Management Team will be providing more detailed information regarding local instructions for appointment scheduling, vaccination, data entry and support arrangements.

## Data entry

As indicated in the communication to you earlier this week, a new vaccination data entry system, the Vaccination Management Tool, has been developed and can be accessed securely online via the internet. This will enable any NHS staff involved in administering vaccines to view and enter data relating to COVID-19 vaccinations. NHS Board vaccination centres, community pharmacies, and GP practices will be able to use this tool for the entry of vaccination data. Staff will need to be registered as users of this tool by their Health Board. To use this tool, please contact one of the VMT administrators in your local NHS Board area who can help you to get the vaccinators in your practice set up on the VMT. Alternatively, you can contact [contact.digital@nes.scot.nhs.uk.](mailto:contact.digital@nes.scot.nhs.uk.)

There is no requirement to double enter data into the VMT and your GPIT system. It is only necessary to enter vaccinations into one system. Data will be automatically shared between systems as set out in Section 5.

# New codes in your GPIT system

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a raft of new codes being required to enable the appropriate recording of clinical data. These new codes are being created on a UK wide basis using SNOMED-CT, as the READ coding system stopped being updated in 2016. It has been necessary for EMIS PCS and Cegedim (Vision) to create their own local codes within their systems as they do not yet support SNOMED-CT. In Cegedim (Vision) these take the same format as READ codes, in EMIS PCS they use the prefix ^ESCT.

These are released in EMIS PCS Release E for 2020 Patch 5254 (already out) and Vision coding dictionary 31.1 update (due mid January).

The new codes that are relevant for COVID-19 vaccination data are:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Vision | EMIS |
| Admin first dose SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | 65F01 | ^ESCT1348323 |
| Admin second dose SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | 65F02 | ^ESCT1348325 |
| Adverse reaction SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | TJK62 | ^ESCT1348319 |
| Allergy to SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | 14L51 | ^ESCT1348327 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vaccine dose declined | 8IAI0 | ^ESCT1348329 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vaccination first dose declined | 8IAI2 | ^ESCT1348333 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vaccination second dose declined | 8IAI3 | ^ESCT1348335 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vaccination first dose not given | 8IK1. | ^ESCT1348341 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vaccination second dose not given | 8IK2. | ^ESCT1348343 |
| SARS-CoV-2 immunisation course declined | 8IAI1 | ^ESCT1348345 |
| DNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine first dose | 9Niq1 | ^ESCT1348349 |
| DNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine second dose | 9Niq2 | ^ESCT1348351 |

Practices **should not** enter these codes directly, data should always be entered via templates or guidelines within your GPIT system.

# Vaccination Data entry in GP systems

If your practice has agreed to deliver COVID19 vaccinations, the decision to use the Vaccine Management Tool or your GPIT system for data entry should be agreed at a local level.

A template/guideline is available for your GPIT system to help with the recording of relevant vaccination information.

For vaccinations the data that is required for each vaccination is as previously detailed in the PCA letter (<https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(M)17.pdf>) namely:-

Patient and Practice specific data (automatically available if recording in your GPIT system)

Date of administration

1st or 2nd dose (1st stage / 2nd stage)

Manufacturer

Batch Number

Route of administration

Site of Administration

## Cegedim (Vision) Data entry

There will be a new Guideline available to download from the Vision website (<http://help.visionhealth.co.uk/Vision_Consultation_Manager_Help_Centre/Content/Guidelines/Guidelines.htm>) that will enable entry of COVID-19 vaccination information.

**Important notes regarding Immunisation data in Cegedim (Vision)**

**The two codes in the chart above, for the first and second dose of vaccination will not be available in the Cegedim system until mid January. Therefore, the guideline uses the interim code 65F0. ‘2019-nCoV (novel coronavirus) vaccination’. Cegedim will map the interim code automatically following the release of a minor patch, at a later date. The stage of dose should be entered to allow this mapping to occur.**

**It is important that the correct manufacturer is selected and all the related fields for 1st or 2nd dose, site, route of vaccination and batch number are completed. The ‘use by date’ is not required to be recorded and shouldn’t be entered into the Batch Number field. Note that initially the manufacturer in the drug drop down may show as ‘Courageous’ for the Pfizer vaccine and ‘Talent’ for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. These names will be auto corrected at the next drug update.**

## EMIS PCS Data entry

EMIS have recently placed a template in the Central Template Repository (Patches 5256 and 5257) and this is now available to add to your systems. If you intend to add default values to the template please see enclosed guidance from EMIS around how to ensure that the site of vaccination options are retained in the template.

It is important to use the provided template to entering vaccination data which will assist with the accurate and correct coding of all the required information.

**Where there are freetext boxes to enter data, these should follow the correct order (including backslash separators) as indicated on the templates. The ‘use by date’ is not required to be recorded and shouldn’t be entered. This will enable accurate transfer of these fields to the National Clinical Data Store.**

# Adverse reactions to Vaccinations

Prior to administering the vaccine, practices are reminded that it is important to ensure, whichever system they use to record vaccination, they have processes in place to check for previous allergies and adverse reactions in line with recommendations for the particular vaccine brand in use, as per the [Green Book Chapter 14a](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948757/Greenbook_chapter_14a_v4.pdf).

If you are aware of an adverse reaction that may relate to the Covid-19 vaccination, this should be recorded within your IT system AND via the Yellow Card system (<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> ). Links are available for the Yellow Card reporting on the allergy or adverse reaction sections on the data entry templates. This will enable on-going safety evaluation of these new vaccines.

# Importing of vaccination information into Cegedim (Vision) and EMIS PCS

Albasoft, working with the NCDS and the GPIT suppliers, Cegedim (Vision) and EMIS, are developing the mechanism for importing data relating to vaccinations recorded elsewhere, using the Vaccine Management Tool, into your GPIT system, so that this vaccination information will be available to you when required.

This will need your administrative input in accessing the Albasoft software system and enabling import of the vaccination information into patient’s records. Further details regarding these imports and how to deal with any import errors will follow.

# Payments

With the COVID-19 vaccination data present in GPIT systems, coming both from direct data entry by GP staff as well as by import of data entered via the Vaccine Management Tool, it is important that practices are able to identify patients that they are eligible to claim for. Searches and Audits are being developed to use in each GPIT System. Further information will follow detailing how to do this and the NCDS plan to develop processes to maintain records of vaccines given by practices for payment purposes.

Reference to payments relating to the inputting of vaccination data given outside of GP practices is made in the recent circular letter (<https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(M)17.pdf>).

# In Summary

You will appreciate that the COVID-19 vaccination process is requiring an enormous effort to establish the processes required to roll this programme out as smoothly as possible. There will be adjustments made as the processes develop, and the role you are playing and continue to do over the coming months is greatly appreciated. Updated information will be provided when it becomes available.

With best wishes,

Caroline Lamb

Director of Digital Reform

Delivery Director for the C-19 Vaccination Programme